

East Valley FireFighter's Poker Run



This was the 8th year for this fundraiser, and you could tell by attendance that it is a popular event and cause. On the morning of April 1, 2011 Superstition Harley-Davidson, 2910 W. Apache Trail in Apache Junction was the place to be. Registration for the EVF Poker Run included a 3 Alarm Pancake Breakfast rustled up by firefighter volunteers. We're talking real food to keep you rolling for a while ... eggs, ham, pancakes, & coffee included

This was a self-paced scenic ride, totaling about 180 miles. After leaving Superstition HD, stops were at the Drift Inn Saloon in Globe, Boston's Lake House Grill at Roosevelt Lake, and Jake's Corner Bar. This was the official lunch stop; where, for a \$5 donation you could get a bbq lunch catered by Texas Roadhouse. Last card was due at Toby Keith's I Love This Bar & Grill in Mesa by 4pm.

There was positive response to knowing that you

did not have to be present to collect your raffle prizes. As long as you put your contact info on the back of the tickets you would be called to pick them up.

High Hand winner of the poker run was Kathy Whinery (Independents MC) and Low Hand winner was Betty Austin.

Betsy had the opportunity to speak with Cori Darnell, the Executive Director of East Valley Firefighters Charities. This is a small, grassroots, 501C-3 organization run completely through the efforts of professional firefighters from the communities of Apache Junction, Florence, Ft McDowell, Gilbert, Mesa, and Salt River who volunteer their time to this extremely worthy cause.

As Cori explained so eloquently, the job of these firefighters is to make the best of everyone else's worst day. They see so much tragedy in their work, and spend so much time dealing with the rough seg-

ments of life. Their volunteer efforts allow them to take all that negative energy and re-direct it toward a positive outcome.

Charities such as the Child Crisis Center and Sunshine Acres Children's Home are among the beneficiaries of the monies raised by EVFC. They adopted 110 families for Christmas last year. You can learn more about this extraordinary organization at <http://unitedmesaff.com/pages/charities.html>

Watch our calendar for news of when the next East Valley FireFighter's Poker Run, hosted by Superstition H-D, will take place.

Bruce & Betsy

*More photos in the gallery on page 27 ~
See the complete collection online in our AZ Vision Gallery*